

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Arthur W. McCurdy, June 15, 1901

691 HOTEL CHELSEA, Atlantic City, N. J., June 15, 1901. Dear Mr. McCurdy: —

The older one grows the more rapidly does he find his friends dropping off all around him, until finally he is either left alone or drops out of sight himself. I am sometimes afraid — since my return from Japan and Europe — to ask after old friends for fear of finding a vacant place, or touching a wounded heart by my ignorance. There are quite a number of vacant places in Washington, and in several cases I have been afraid to ask where the familiar face has gone to. Miss Archibald and Mrs. Blanchard have disappeared from your own family circle, and I fear that other friends may be found absent when we return to Baddeck. Won't you please tell me what changes of this kind there have been.

I am glad to find from your note of June 10 that one friend, at least, is still in the land of the living — my dear old friend A. W. McC. — I have missed you very much, but — as you know my epistolary abilities to a hair — I am sure you have not been surprised at the voluminous silences you have received. If you have safely received all the things that I have not written, it would make a volume indeed.

Mrs. Bell sails from Cherbourg today by the Steamer St. Louis 2 692 which is expected to arrive in New York on the 22nd inst..

I stay here until Wednesday, the 19th inst., will be in Washington on Thursday and Friday and in New York on Saturday, after which my movements will depend on Mrs. Bell. She will want, I know, to return at once to Baddeck, but I doubt whether I can do so. The Census Office has just arrived at a stage in their work when my personal presence is required, and I shall probably have to go to Buffalo and Detroit in the middle of July, as

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what my movements will be I cannot tell. At present Beinn Bhreagh looks a great distance away.

I am almost afraid to ask you about patents. Surely we should have heard some thing about them are this unless something had gone wrong. I hope not, indeed, for I have not seen anything for a long time that impressed me so fully with a feeling of promise, as your photographic inventions. Good luck to you wherever you are. Success to the Ebedec — to gypsum matters and to A.W.McC.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell